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CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET-CONTROL/US OFFICIALS ONLY~~COUNTRY BulgariaREPORT NO.

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EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

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DATE PREPARED 5 October 1950

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) 1 - Standard Manpower Questionnaire

REMARKS

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1. The personnel of the Bulgarian Danube flotilla, approximately equal in strength to that of a regiment, were quartered in the Naval Barracks near the harbor of Ruse (43°50'N/25°55'E), where the headquarters of the flotilla was also housed. *
2. Officers identified in the flotilla included Major Grigoijs Stancev, commanding officer of 8th Co, about 40 years old, 170 cm tall, dark eyes, black hair, a member of the Communist Party and a former partisan; and Senior Lieutenant Ivan Svetarov, commanding officer of 2d Plt of 8th Co, about 28 years old, 170 cm tall, black hair.
3. The flotilla had 800 recruits organized into eight companies. Each company consisted of a company headquarters and three platoons and numbered 100 recruits and 20 training personnel. The personnel were armed with rifles of an old Soviet model.
4. The basic training lasted for three months. The political officer gave daily lessons in political indoctrination. Russian lessons were also given daily. Once a week, Soviet officers held lectures on the U.S.S.R. in Russian.
5. The following craft were observed in the Ruse Harbor:
 - a. Seven torpedo boats of British origin, bought by Bulgaria in 1945, bearing consecutive numbers from 1 through 7 and the letters DF. Each boat had a complement of 28 men, and was equipped with two torpedo tubes, two light 22-mm AA guns, six depth charges and one light 8-mm machine gun.
 - b. Mine sweepers Dunav and Botev, each of 500 GRT, with a 250-HP Diesel engine and two AA machine guns.
 - c. Six new mine laying craft, built in 1948 and 1949 with a Diesel engine of unknown horsepower.
 - d. An unknown number of armored motorboats each carrying one machine gun. **

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6. About 3,000 men were employed in the Ruse shipyard building small tugboats and repairing naval and merchant vessels. Soviet engineers held leading positions. ***

25X1A * ☐ Comment. The peace treaty at the end of World War II allowed the Bulgarian Navy 3,500 personnel and 7,500 tons. The Bulgarian Navy is controlled by a Naval Headquarters in the Ministry of National Defense in Sofia but will be subordinate to the army in case of war. Soviet Captain (1. ranga) Kastrichenko, (fnu), first commander of the Bulgarian Navy in 1944, is attached to the Naval Headquarters as instructor. Source did not obtain real inside knowledge since he deserted during his basic training. From previous reports it is known that other naval stations were set up along the Danube River and that naval personnel are also used for border guard duties along the Danube River. Officers of the former Bulgarian Navy are chiefly responsible for the training of the Bulgarian Navy of today. A Soviet naval officer assists the Bulgarian commanding officer, and promising officers and NCOs are trained with the Soviet Navy. A close connection with the Soviet Navy is thus guaranteed and the basis laid for cooperation with the Soviets in time of war.

25X1A** ☐ Comment. The Bulgarian Navy has seven former German PT boats successively numbered from 2 through 8. It is possible that source referred to these boats. The names of the two mine sweepers and the six mine laying craft are not known. The peace treaty does not permit torpedo tubes on PT boats which are officially listed as "speedy mine sweepers". To date, these boats are the most valuable components of the Bulgarian Navy. Since the authorized tonnage is not filled it is possible that Bulgaria has received more naval craft from the U.S.S.R.

25X1A *** ☐ Comment. It has been reported that the Ruse Shipyard produces about one hundred B-2 mines per month, each weighing 50 kg.

1 Annex: Standard Manpower Questionnaire.

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